

Application No. 10/669,285  
Amendment dated December 28, 2005  
Reply to Final Office Action of October 4, 2005

Docket No. 1232-5165

### **REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

#### **Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-4 and 7-12 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 10 are independent. Claims 1-4, 7, 8 and 10-12 stand rejected. Claim 9 is indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

By this amendment, all of the rejected claims (i.e., claims 1-4, 7, 8 and 10-12) are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 9 is amended in independent form. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

#### **Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102**

Claims 1-4, 7, 8 and 10-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0049589 to Yasuda et al. ("Yasuda").

As indicated above, all of the rejected claims 1-4, 7, 8 and 10-12 have been cancelled rendering the rejections directed to these claims moot.

As the objected to claim 9 has been amended in independent form, and as a result, the application contains only allowable claim 9.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that the application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

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**AUTHORIZATION**

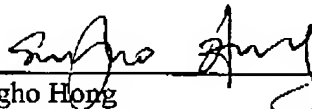
No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-5165). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: December 28, 2005

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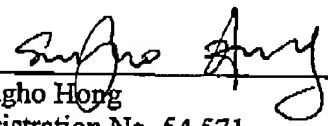
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